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Testimony to the Public Safety and Economic Development Committee Bill No. & Title: Bill 53 (2013) - Open Data

Date, Time: Tuesday, October 29, 2013, 9:00 a.m. Place: City Hall, Committee Meeting Room

To: Chair Council Member Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair Council Member Kymberly Marcos Pine and Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Economic Development:

Subject: Support for Bill 53 (2013) CD1

I am Burt Lum, Executive Director of Hawaii Open Data, a non-profit dedicated to advancing open data principles in Hawaii. Formed in 2012, we focus on improving data accessibility and integrity in support of public/private collaboration, government transparency and civic engagement.

Hawaii Open Data strongly supports Bill 53 (2013) CD1, Relating to Open Data. This Bill is key to building a government that is open, transparent and poised for the 21st century. In addition to open data being a key element in open government and transparency, it is a fundamental building block for open innovation in a collaborative, citizen-facing environment. Websites like Data.gov, Data.Hawaii.Gov and Data.Honolulu.Gov are in place for public access and interaction. It is an opportunity for government to co-create the delivery of services with the community it serves. This process will also fuel economic development in the technology sector.

An example of an application recently built by the community using C&C of Honolulu open data is DaBus, a mobile app that runs on iOS and Android smartphones that provides the user with locations of bus stops, bus routes and bus arrival times. Adopted by the City, DaBus has become the most popular mobile app in the City's roster of applications. Other examples of open data apps include Adopt-a-Siren, Adopt-a-Stream, Crimemapper and the Honolulu Public Art Finder.

With this bill we can codify open data in the C&C of Honolulu and join the State of Hawaii (Act 263) in realizing open data's full potential.

There are a few minor modifications I would like to suggest to Bill 53 (2013) CD1:

- First, the definition for Chief Information Officer should also be included in Section 2, under Executive Branch Open Data Requirements. This would make it consistent with Section 3, under Legislative Branch Open Data Requirements.
- Second, the numbering in Section 3 should be change from 4 to 3.
- Third, in Sec. 4-\_.5 (b) (2) there is a floating " at the end of the sentence that should be removed.
- Fourth, in Sec 2-\_.5 (a) and Sec 4-\_.5 (a) remove the phrase "is of minimal public interest". This would enable the public to decide which data sets are interesting.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.

Sincerely,

**Burt Lum** 

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